

SENATE BILL 149

P1

2lr0005

By: **Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee (By Request – Departmental – Veterans Affairs)**

Introduced and read first time: January 18, 2012

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Maryland Veterans Commission – Membership**

3 FOR the purpose of adding a representative who is a veteran of certain conflicts to
4 serve on the Maryland Veterans Commission; removing a member of a certain
5 organization from the Maryland Veterans Commission; and generally relating
6 to the Maryland Veterans Commission.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

8 Article – State Government

9 Section 9–916

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

13 Article – State Government

14 Section 9–917

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – State Government**

20 9–916.

21 There is a Maryland Veterans Commission in the Department that shall advise
22 the Secretary of all matters pertaining to veterans issues.

23 9–917.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) (1) The Commission consists of 28 members appointed by the
2 Governor.

3 (2) Of the members:

4 (i) 1 shall be appointed from each of the 8 congressional
5 districts in the State;

6 (ii) 1 shall be a veteran appointed from the State at large;

7 (iii) 1 shall be a woman veteran appointed from the State at
8 large;

9 (iv) 1 shall be a representative of a retired enlisted organization;
10 [and]

11 **(V) 1 SHALL BE A VETERAN OF THE IRAQ OR AFGHANISTAN**
12 **CONFLICT, AS DEFINED IN § 1-202(A-1) OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE; AND**

13 **[(v)] (VI)** 1 shall be appointed from a list of individuals
14 submitted to the Governor by each of the following organizations:

15 1. the American Ex-Prisoners of War, Inc.;

16 2. the American Legion;

17 3. the Amvets;

18 4. the Catholic War Veterans;

19 5. the Disabled American Veterans;

20 6. the Fleet Reserve Association;

21 7. the Jewish War Veterans;

22 8. the Marine Corps League;

23 9. the Maryland Military Officers Association of
24 America;

25 10. the Military Order of the Purple Heart;

26 [11. the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association;]

1 [12.] 11. the Polish Legion of American Veterans;
2 [13.] 12. the Veterans of Foreign Wars;
3 [14.] 13. the Vietnam Veterans of America;
4 [15.] 14. the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.;
5 [16.] 15. the Black Veterans of All Wars, Inc.; and
6 [17.] 16. the Colonial Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans
7 of America.

8 (b) Each member must be a resident of the State and a veteran.

9 (c) (1) The term of an appointed member is 5 years.

10 (2) The terms of the appointed members are staggered as required by
11 the terms provided for members of the Commission on October 1, 1984.

12 (3) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor
13 is appointed and qualifies.

14 (4) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for
15 the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

16 (5) When an organization is no longer a part of the Commission, the
17 appointment shall terminate at the end of the current member's term.

18 (d) A new organization may not be eligible for representation on the
19 Commission, by appointment of the Governor, unless it is congressionally chartered.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 October 1, 2012.